

[0057] 27 INVITE to URI

[0058] 28 200 OK

[0059] 29 NOTIFY with response code 200 OK

[0060] The mechanism described above can also facilitate dial-in conferences. In the dial-in case, the mechanism would function in essentially the same manner as described above except that the conference URI would be delivered to prospective participants in a different way, for example via an Instant Message or email, rather than using a REFER message to invite them.

[0061] As illustrated in FIG. 4, the process of administering conference resources in a communications is provided for at least one set of embodiments of the present invention. As generally described previously, a first message is transmitted to a server, requesting a resource capable of sustaining a conference call, in step 401. Thereafter, the server allocates a network address identifying a resource capable of sustaining a conference call, in step 402. The server transmits a second message to the first terminal having the network address, in step 403. The component units that provide the previously discussed functionality are illustrated in FIG. 5, namely the Receiver Unit 501, the Allocation Unit 502 and the Transmission Unit 503.

[0062] The applicant draws attention to the fact that the present invention may include any feature or combination of features disclosed herein either implicitly or explicitly, or any generalization thereof, without limitation to the scope of any definitions set out above. In view of the foregoing description it will be evident to a person skilled in the art that various modifications may be made within the scope of the invention.

What is claimed is:

1. A method comprising:

transmitting from a first user equipment to a server a first message comprising a request for a resource configured to sustain a conference call;

receiving by the first user equipment from the server a second message comprising a network address identifying the resource configured to sustain the conference call which has been allocated by the server;

in response to receiving the second message, transmitting a first request from the first user equipment directly to the resource at the network address;

in response to receiving an acknowledgment of the first request directly from the resource, transmitting from the first user equipment to at least one other user equipment a third message comprising the network address; and

in response to receiving a notification that the resource sends out directly to the at least one other user equipment an acknowledgment of a second request directly sent from the at least one other user equipment, the first user equipment initiating a connection from the first user equipment to the at least one other user equipment via the resource to establish a conference call between the first user equipment and the at least one other user equipment;

wherein the third message comprising the network address is transmitted by direct communication from the first user equipment to the at least one other user equipment.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the second message specifies that the resource is being allocated a respective address of a corresponding plurality of addresses, the respec-

tive address being unique to the conference call at any given time; and wherein each of the corresponding plurality of addresses are allocated according to a pre-set pattern such that the respective address refers to a resource that is available for the conference call at the given time.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein the first message comprises a first session initiation protocol invite message.

4. The method of claim 3 further comprising:

sending a second session initiation protocol invite message comprising a dynamic uniform resource identifier to the resource.

5. The method of claim 2 wherein the second message comprises a session initiation protocol 3xx redirection message.

6. The method of claim 5 wherein the session initiation protocol 3xx redirection message comprises a contact header containing the dynamic uniform resource identifier.

7. The method of claim 2 further comprising receiving a session initiation protocol 200 OK message from the resource.

8. The method of claim 4 wherein the third message comprises a session initiation protocol refer message to the user agent.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein the session initiation protocol refer message comprises a refer-to header comprising the dynamic uniform resource identifier.

10. The method of claim 9 further comprising receiving a session initiation protocol accepted message.

11. A non-transitory computer readable medium encoded with instructions for performing a method when executed on a computer, the method comprising:

transmitting from a first user equipment to a server a first message comprising a request for a resource configured to sustain a conference call;

receiving by the first user equipment from the server a second message comprising a network address identifying the resource configured to sustain the conference call which has been allocated by the server;

in response to receiving the second message, transmitting a first request from the first user equipment directly to the resource at the network address;

in response to receiving an acknowledgment of the first request directly from the resource, transmitting from the first user equipment to at least one other user equipment a third message comprising the network address; and

in response to receiving a notification that the resource sends out directly to the at least one other user equipment an acknowledgment of a second request directly sent from the at least one other user equipment, the first user equipment initiating a connection from the first user equipment to the at least one other user equipment via the resource to establish a conference call between the first user equipment and the at least one other user equipment;

wherein the third message comprising the network address is transmitted by direct communication from the first user equipment to the at least one other user equipment.

12. The non-transitory computer readable medium of claim 11 wherein the second message specifies that the resource is being allocated a respective address of a corresponding plurality of addresses, the respective address being unique to the conference call at any given time; and wherein